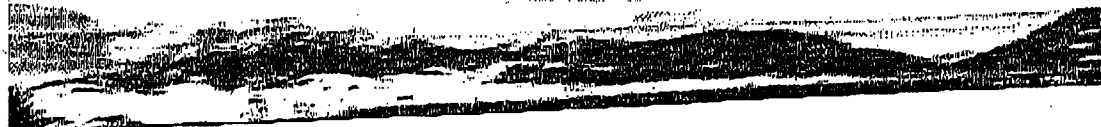


Montana Environmental Health Association



March 9, 2011

Senator Debby Barrett
Senate Natural Resources Committee
Montana State Senate
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages	1
To	Senate Natural Resources Committee		
From	MEHA		
Co.			
Phone #	406-883-7236		
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RE: HB 28 - Letter of Support

Requiring proposed drainfield mixing zones to be wholly within the subdivision where the drainfield is located or on an adjoining right of way; allowing the location of a drainfield mixing zone outside the subdivision if an easement or authorization is obtained.

Dear Senator Barrett, Chair and Committee Members:

The Montana Environmental Health Association is an organization of public health professionals such as registered sanitarians, environmental consultants, hydrologists, health educators and others dedicated to protecting public health as it relates to our everyday environment. Many of our professionals work in areas such as subdivision review, food safety, water/wastewater management, air quality and public health complaints. An important part of our jobs include review of subdivisions.

This bill will require septic system mixing zones for new subdivisions to stay within the external boundary of the subdivision that the drainfield serves unless an easement is provided for the mixing zone onto the neighboring land. This bill will protect public health and water quality while also protecting property rights of the neighbors.

HB 28 only applies to new mixing zones associated with new subdivisions. All new wastewater sources need to have a mixing zone associated with them. Mixing zones give the discharge of pollutants a chance to mix and dilute in the existing ground water to meet the applicable water quality limit.

MEHA recommends supporting this bill for the following reasons:

1. This bill will remove the threat of neighboring wells being placed in a mixing zone because it will be confined to the parcel subdivision it serves.
2. Public health is protected by eliminating new wells being drilled in the mixing zone and guaranteeing that certain water quality standards are met at the edge of the subdivision.
3. No neighbors will have mixing zones placed on their lots without their approval, thus protecting private property rights.

Thank you for your consideration,

Christine Hughes

Christine Hughes
MEHA President